

Message Text

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 IO-13 EB-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05

OES-06 CU-02 NSF-01 NAS-01 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1821

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATE OF FRG-GDR CONTACTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG REP (HENZE) HAS BRIEFED ALLIES IN BONN GROUP CONCERNING SEVERAL RECENT FRG-GDR CONTACTS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE INTERPRETS THESE CONTACTS TO MEAN THAT THE GDR HAS GONE INTO A KIND OF POLICY HOLDING PATTERN VIS-A-VIS THE FRG PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS IN THE FRG AND POSSIBLY THE US ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. HENZE CALLED THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN FRG PERMREP GAUS AND SED GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR THE MOST SPECTACULAR IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT RECENT FRG-GDR CONTACT. AS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS, HONECKER SUGGESTED THAT GAUS SHOULD DEVOTE LESS TIME TO HANDING OVER PROTESTS TO THE GDR AND MORE TIME TO
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NEGOTIATIONS. INDEED, NEGOTIATIONS ON VARIOUS POINTS

SHOULD BE CONTINUED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OTHERWISE,
THE GAUS-HONECKER CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES.

2. HENZE REPORTED THAT THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
IN EAST BERLIN INTERPRETS THE GAUS-HONECKER ENCOUNTER AS
A DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD WILL BY THE GDR. DESPITE THE
RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS AND THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 13, THE
GDR WANTS TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES. AT THE SAME
TIME, HENZE ADDED THE GDR SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING A
"DOUBLE TRACK" APPROACH. IT IS PRACTICING A SORT OF
"VERBAL ABGRENZUNG." IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE SPEECHES AND
THE PRESS THERE IS THE THEME THAT THE GDR DOES NOT LOOK
FOR CONFRONTATION WITH THE FRG, BUT THAT THERE ARE LIMITS
TO WHAT THE GDR WILL DO.

3. HENZE SAID THE GDR APPROACH AT THE PRESENT TIME IS
TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FRG ELECTIONS.
THE GDR OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO KEEP OPEN TWO ALTERNATIVES:
TO CONTINUE A POLICY OF NORMALIZATION, OR TO ADOPT A
HARDENED APPROACH.

4. HENZE POINTED TO OTHER FACTORS WHICH MIGHT ALSO
ACCOUNT FOR THE SUSPENDED STATE OF GDR POLICY. FOR ONE
THING, THE GDR MAY ALSO BE AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF
THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS AND ANY POSSIBLE IMPACT UPON
AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, REALIZING THAT INNER-GERMAN
RELATIONS ARE AFFECTED BY US-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN
ADDITION, THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS, INCLUDING
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, HAVE LED TO DISCUSSION AND
CRITICISM WITHIN THE GDR POPULATION AND PRODUCED A NEED
FOR THE ADOPTION OF CAUTIOUS POLICIES BY THE GDR. HENZE
THOUGHT IT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE NUMBER OF
APPLICATIONS IN THE GDR FOR EXIT PERMITS HAD INCREASED
RECENTLY.

5. HENZE ALSO REPORTED THAT GAUS AND GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER NIER MEET "FROM TIME TO TIME," AND THAT THEY
HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING A NUMBER OF MEASURES AIMED AT
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IMPROVING RELATIONS. THESE INCLUDE:

-- PERMITTING CHILDREN FROM THE FRG TO VISIT RELATIVES
IN THE GDR WITHOUT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR PARENTS
THE ENTIRE TIME, ONLY ON THE TRIP THERE AND BACK;

-- EXEMPTING PENSIONERS FROM THE MINIMUM CURRENCY
EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR VISITS TO THE GDR;

-- SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES FOR VISITS IN AREAS
ADJACENT TO THE BORDER;

-- IMPROVING MODALITIES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL TRANSFER

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OF PAYMENTS, INCLUDING INHERITANCES.

6. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, HOWEVER,
HENZE OBSERVED THAT THE NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE WIDELY
QUOTED IN THE PRESS IS NOT EXACT. THERE IS NO GAUS
"25-POINT LIST" AS SUCH.

7. NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALSO TAKING PLACE ON THE PROPOSED
FRG-GDR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT, HENZE SAID,

BUT NO PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. NO MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE ON THE PROPOSED CULTURAL AGREEMENT. HENZE SAID THERE IS NO EXPECTATION OF EARLY RESULTS ON EITHER OF THESE AGREEMENTS. THE QUESTION OF A BERLIN CLAUSE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN APPROACHED.

8. GAUS AND NIER HAVE ALSO TALKED "ONCE OR TWICE" ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OPENING OF A NORTH CROSSING POINT IN WEST BERLIN, ACCORDING TO HENZE. NIER HAS ASKED THAT GAUS NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE GDR VIEW ON THE FRG'S LACK OF COMPETENCE TO NEGOTIATE ON THIS SUBJECT.

9. COMMENT: FROM HENZE'S ACCOUNT AND FROM PRESS ATTENTION TO THE RECENT GAUS-NIER DISCUSSIONS, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE TEMPO OF FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS IS PICKING UP. THERE IS A CERTAIN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN INDICATIONS OF GDR WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN SOME AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND HENZE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE GDR AS HAVING GONE INTO A HOLDING PATTERN IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE WITNESSING MORE MOTION THAN MOVEMENT.

10. AS IN THE CASE OF THE USSR (DISCUSSED IN BONN 15262), THE GDR HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO ADOPT A STANCE AIMED AT ENDING SPECULATION THAT IT IS TRYING TO PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THE SPD/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT. YET IT SEEMS SO FAR NOT TO HAVE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE WHICH WOULD EITHER CARRY ANY COST TO THE GDR OR WHICH MIGHT ALLOW A FUTURE CDU/CSU GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM THAT THE GDR HAD TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTIONS. NOR, AS HENZE OBSERVED, HAS THE GDR TAKEN ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE A SWITCH TO A HARDER LINE IF THAT SHOULD PROVE DESIRABLE.
HILLENBRAND

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